

join MSU in congratulating a student athlete for his on-the-field achievements.

Senior running back Jerious Norwood of Brandon, Mississippi, was awarded the Cellular South Conerly Award this year, earning the honor of Mississippi's top college football player of 2005. Norwood ran for 1,136 yards and six touchdowns this season, 204 yards and three scores coming in the Bulldogs' season-ending, 35-14 win over rival Ole Miss in the Egg Bowl. That performance also earned him the Southeastern Conference Offensive Player of the Week.

Norwood is only the second Bulldog ever to rush for 1,000-plus yards in back-to-back seasons. He follows James "JJ" Johnson (1997-1998) both in that distinction and in earning the Conerly Award. Norwood and Johnson are the only two Bulldogs to win this recognition in its 10-year history.

Midway through this season, Norwood became State's career rushing leader with a final achievement of 3,222 total yards on the ground, eclipsing Walter Packer's previous mark of 2,820 yards set in the 1970s. Norwood also finished with the most 100-yard games in MSU history.

Norwood, along with senior defensive end Willie Evans, was named to the 2005 Coaches' All-SEC team and was named second-team, All-SEC by the Associated Press.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Norwood on his achievements and join with Bulldog head coach Sylvester Croom in wishing him many future successes.

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE 13TH AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 196, to recognize the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution, providing the final blow to eradicate the system of slavery in this great nation.

The history of slavery in North America traces back to the early-1500s. Through various European colonies, continuing through the early years of the United States, around 6 million Africans were forcibly removed from their home and brought to North America to work as slaves. The years, however, wrought on and the conscience of this Nation came to realize the profundity of inequality that this system perpetuated. Not only were people born and raised in this country forced to work as indentured servants, but even their status as human beings was reduced to that of three-fifths of a person. This system could not continue.

Brave abolitionists working tirelessly to bring about the downfall of this inherently unjust system, many of them sacrificing their lives and their own freedoms, the tensions surrounding this issue provided one of the major breaking points for the American Civil War. With the advent of a nation turned upon itself, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, freeing all slaves within the Confederate States. Two

years later, the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution was proposed on the House floor and was met with cheers in support resounding from the House Gallery. Less than one year later, on December 6, 1863, Georgia's state legislature became the 27th State to pass the measure, meeting the requirement for ratification. On that day, the 13th Amendment was passed, slavery had been abolished, and our great Nation could finally put this dark period of history in our past.

Over the next five years, the remaining Civil War Amendments would be passed, including the 14th Amendment, which granted equal protection under the law, and the 15th Amendment, which granted voting rights regardless of race. Although slavery itself had been abolished, these historic achievements would set the foundation for a long struggle towards abolishing discrimination and injustice.

The 13th Amendment set a firm base for the modern-day civil rights movement, many aspects of which continue on with us today. The legacy of those who ended slavery and started us on the path to equality for all people must continue to inspire us to reach for greater tolerance, greater understanding, and greater compassion for our fellow human beings.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I was not present in the Chamber on Thursday, December 15, to cast my votes on rollcalls 636 through 641. Had I been present I would have voted in the following ways: Rollcall 636—Nay; Rollcall 637—Yea; Rollcall 638—Yea; Rollcall 639—Yea; Rollcall 640—Nay; and Rollcall 641—Yea.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JENNY GRAVES AND ASHLEE MANN

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment and pay tribute to two outstanding young women from Littleton and Aurora, CO. Jenny Graves and Ashlee Mann graduated from AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps 10-month program in Perry Point, MD.

Through this program these young women learned the critical role that AmeriCorps'NCCC plays in disaster relief. These young women now have a stronger understanding of the role that volunteers play in assisting areas affected by natural disasters.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to honor Jenny Graves and Ashlee Mann and their achievements here today, and wish these young women all the best in their future endeavors.

SALUTING THE COMMAND, CREW
AND AIR WING OF THE U.S.S.
"RONALD REAGAN"

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, the newest carrier in the United States Navy is engaged in final training and preparation in the Pacific Ocean and will soon be deployed to the Middle East to support our national interests, defend freedom and spread liberty to a more stable world. Nearly 6,000 Navy personnel call the U.S.S. *Ronald Reagan* home and serve both day and night in her courageous mission to provide "peace through strength."

Many of the personnel on the *Reagan* hail from Mississippi, and we are proud of our men and women who serve from the magnolia State. I often tell my colleagues that Mississippi has the full military package: Our citizens serve bravely in our Armed Forces, our bases train top pilots and protect important facilities, our universities provide cutting edge military research and technology, while companies and manufacturers earn top military contracts to produce the equipment our modern soldiers need for today's battles. I take personal honor in sharing the title "Mississippian" with these soldiers. We at home are proud of the Mississippians serving on the U.S.S. *Ronald Reagan*.

Many of the aviators and crew onboard the U.S.S. *Ronald Reagan* trained at Naval Air Station Meridian in my district in Mississippi. NAS Meridian is an essential, necessary and critical component of our national security network. This valuable and effective facility, and the community that supports it, adds strength to the character and performance of the United States Navy. We send these personnel to the U.S.S. *Ronald Reagan* and to our Navy forces around the world to serve with honor, courage and commitment.

Mr. Speaker, I hope Congress joins me in saluting the command, crew, and air wing of the U.S.S. *Ronald Reagan*. Their training and preparation allows the United States to advance our priorities around the globe, and remain secure at home. The U.S.S. *Ronald Reagan's* designation is CVN 76 and the crew practices daily the "Spirit of 76" in honor of their ship and the year of our independence, 1776. Their service will continue to keep us free. For the next half-century, the U.S.S. *Ronald Reagan* will serve the American people in times of peace and times of war, and I take this time to honor her and the forces on board as they prepare for her maiden deployment.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4297, TAX RELIEF EXTENSION RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the irresponsible Republican tax giveaways proposed in